

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 514542000940	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US02/35619	International filing date (day/month/year) 05 November 2002 (05.11.2002)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 05 November 2001 (05.11.2001)
Applicant EDC BIOSYSTEMS, INC		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the Report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
 - contained in the international application in written form.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 - the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 - the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 4A

- as suggested by the applicant.
- because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
- because this figure better characterizes the invention.

None of the figures

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/35619

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

NEW ABSTRACT

Devices useful in liquid transfer applications and in particular, devices for controlling the free surface [150] of a source liquid in acoustic liquid ejection systems are disclosed. The devices advantageously maintain a source liquid [40] to be transferred at a constant height and reduce disturbances formed in the liquid [40] due to droplet ejection. In one variation, a well plate [100] includes a plurality of wells [102] each having a capillary [104]. Source liquid [40] in a well [206] moves up the capillary [104] due to capillary action and arrives at a certain height. The height arrived at remains constant despite the source liquid [40] depleting from the well [206] during the ejection process. The capillary [104] can be separately joined or integral with the well plate [100]. In another variation, an insert [400] includes a capillary tube [204] and at least one support [402] attached thereto. In another variation, a device includes a plurality of capillary tubes [404] joined together by a frame [210] or other substrate. The device is positioned atop a well plate [300] such that the capillary tubes [404] align with and extend into the wells [310]. In yet another variation, an insert [800] includes a tubular member [805] having a liquid restricting inlet [810]. The restricting inlet [810] is sufficiently small such that liquid forms a meniscus at the inlet [810]. Methods for controlling the free surface of a source liquid in a source fluid container are also disclosed.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/35619

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : B41J 2/135
 US CL : 347/46

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 347/1, 20, 44, 46, 47, 54, 68, 87, 93; 137/43; 164/234; 400/194; 29/25.35; B41J 2/015, 33/10

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,806,032 (Gragg et al.) 21 February 1989 (21.02.1989), entire document	1, 26, 57-58, 63-64, 87
A	US 5,838,350 (Newcombe et al.) 17 November 1998 (17.11.1998), entire document	1, 26, 57-58, 63-64, 87
A	US 4,546,361 (Brescia et al.) 8 October 1995 (08.10.1995), entire document	1, 26, 57-58, 63-64, 87
A	US 5,289,212 (Carlotta) 22 February 1994 (22.02.1994), entire document	1, 26, 57-58, 63-64, 87
A	US 6,481,074 B1 (Karlinski) 19 November 2002 (19.11.2002), entire document	1, 26, 57-58, 63-64, 87
A	US 4,308,547 (Lovelady et al.) 29 December 1981 (29.12.1981), entire document	1, 26, 57-58, 63-64, 87

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"L" document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"&"

document member of the same patent family

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 April 2003 (23.04.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

01 JUL 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Authorized officer

Facsimile No. (703)308-3230

B. Fuller

Telephone No. 703-308-0956

Deborah P. Vega

Paralegal Specialist

Technology Center 2800

(703) 308-3078

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under Article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

The statement should be brief, it should not exceed 500 words if in English or if translated into English. It should not be confounded with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It should not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report, may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

In what language?

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is published. The letter and any statement accompanying the amendments must be in the same language as the international application if that language is English or French; otherwise, it must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed?

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(e), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase?

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.